

VOTING TIPS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

If you will be away at college and intend to vote in an upcoming election, plan ahead! Make sure you are registered to vote 30 days prior to the date of the election, allow plenty of time for mailing an absentee ballot application AND the mailing of the ballot. Below is basic information you need to know!

Eligibility

You may register to vote in the State of Michigan if you are:

- 18 years of age or will turn 18 by the date of the next election
- A U.S. citizen
- A Michigan resident

The 30 Day Rule

Current law requires you to register to vote 30 days before the date of the election. This requirement came from the horse and buggy days when registrations had to be physically carried, but it still applies. If you change your address within the 30 days before an election, you can still vote at the polling place of your old address.

Where to Register

If you are eligible to vote in Michigan, you must identify your “principal residence” in the state.

- As a college student, you can choose to register with your campus address, OR the address where you previously resided before moving to campus.
- **Michigan will only keep one registration address on file, so you must choose whether your home or school address will be your principal residence.**

About your Principal Residence

There are several things to consider in making your decision regarding your principal residence:

- Residency requirements for various colleges and universities follow rules set down by those institutions, so be aware that *your residence can determine how much tuition you will pay.*
- Health insurance *may require that you reside with your parents* if you are covered under their policy,
- Your residence *may also determine automobile rates.*

Because Michigan only keeps the “principal residence address” on record for your driver’s license and your voter registration, **if you change one, you’ll change them both!** You can tell where you are expected to vote if your driver’s license is current.

How to Register

- **By visiting** any Secretary of State branch or your local city or township clerk's office.
- **By Mail**- A registration application is available on-line at: www.michigan.gov/vote. If you register by mail and are voting in Michigan for the first time, **you must vote in person.**

If You Are Registered, You May Vote By:

1. Voting at the correct precinct in person on Election Day.
2. Voting in person by absentee ballot at your local clerk's office, if you will not be able to vote in person at the precinct on Election Day.
3. If you have voted in Michigan before or if you registered to vote in person, you have until 2:00 p.m. the Saturday prior to Election Day to request that your local clerk mail you an absentee ballot. The clerk's office must receive the completed ballot by Election Day. Allow plenty of time for the *application* to be mailed to you, your *completed application* to be mailed back to the clerk's office, the ballot mailed to you to complete and finally, the completed ballot to be mailed or delivered in person, back to the clerk's office by Election Day.
4. If you are a first time Michigan voter, it is possible to appear at a Secretary of State office or at another clerk's office to confirm your identity and address. You can then request your local clerk to mail you an absentee ballot. Consider this option **only** if there is sufficient time for you to receive the ballot and get it back to *your* clerk by Election Day. Contact our office if you need to consider this option.

Obtaining an Absentee Ballot

Absentee ballots are usually available 30 days before an election. If you expect to be absent from the city or township where you are registered to vote, for the entire time the polls are open on election day (7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.), you can obtain an absent voter ballot by doing the following:

- Completing a pre-printed application. Visit or call your local clerk's office.
- Submitting a written request to your local clerk by mail or fax. Include the address where you wish to receive your ballot and the reason for the request. (i.e., I will be at college, not at home) and your signature.

Contact Us

By Mail Richfield Township
 5381 N. State Rd.
 Davison, MI. 48423-8595

By Phone 810-653-3564

By Fax 810-653-6295

By Email clerk@richfieldtp.org